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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



25X1C

INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY SOUTHERN LAOTIAN PANHANDLE

NPIC/R-133/68 DECEMBER 1968

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

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INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY SOUTHERN LAOTIAN PANHANDLE

A significant increase in military activity in the southern Laotian panhandle is revealed on recent aerial photography. The entire road network, which was unserviceable during much of the southwest monsoon rainy season (May through September), is now being restored at an unprecedented rate. Traffic is moving from as far north as Mu Gia Pass through Sepone, Chavane, Attopeu, and as far south as the Cambodian border. Last year at this time, by comparison, all the roads depicted on Figure 1 were in disuse, with traffic moving southward only to Sepone.

Construction of new roads and telecommunication traces together with the road reconstruction program significantly improves the Communists' ability to support the war in South Vietnam by volume infiltration of personnel and material through Laos and Cambodia.

This report, coupled with the photographic interpretation memorandum 1/, presents the status of the communist logistics net between Mu Gia Pass and the Cambodian border as

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NPIC/R-125/68, November 1968. NPIC Project: 170001AB

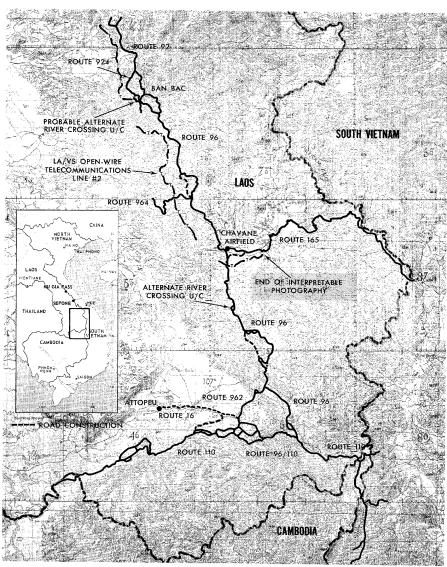


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION MAP.

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